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## INFORMATION ON RR CONSTRUCTION IN WEST CHINA

Summary: The 1,600 meter tunnel at Pa-miao-kou on the T'ienshui -- Ch'eng-tu railway line is expected to be completed by June 1954. More than half of the cargo transported by the Ch'eng-tu--Chungking line consists of building materials for capital construction projects in Szechwan; and the proportion is constantly rising.

The Locomotive and Car Manufacturing Works at Dairen are now successfully building up-to-date air-conditioned welded steel passenger coaches. Work has started on detailed surveys for the construction of a railway line to be 810 kilometers long, connecting Ch'eng-tu and K'un-ming, by way of Nei-chiang, Tzu-kung, and I-pin.7

TUNNELS ON T'IEN-SHUI--CH'ENG-TU LINE -- Mukden, Tung-pei Jih-pao, 1 Jul 53

Ch'eng-tu, 30 June (Hsin-hua) -- The tunnels required on the railway now being built across the Ta-pa Shan between Ch'eng-tu and T'ien-shui total 12 kilometers in length. The longest, over 1,600 meters, is located at Pa-miao-kou. The speed of advance varies from as little as one meter per day to as much as 6 meters per day. It is now expected that the Pa-miao-kou tunnel will be completed by June 1954.

CH'ENG-TU--CHUNGKING LINE TRANSPORTS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS -- Chungking, Hsinhua Jih-pao, 3 Jul 53

Chungking, 1 July (Hsin-hua) -- Basic construction is being greatly facilitated and expedited by the Ch'eng-tu--Chungking Railway. Building materials constitute one half of all the cargo transported, and the quantity is constantly increasing. In January 1953, 133 carloads of cement were transported; in May 1953, 242.5 carloads of cement were transported. Building materials are handled as cargo of the highest importance.

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Construction in Chungking requires large quantities of lumber; consequently, ten carloads of poles and lumber from the Kuan-hsien area west of Ch'eng-tu are being delivered in Chungking each day. Occasionally, trains leave Nei-chiang for Ch'eng-tu loaded only with bricks and tiles. Heavy and bulky machinery is being carried by rail which could not be handled by highway or on the streams, or else only at prohibitive prices. Furthermore, freight rates by rail have been reduced to less than 20 percent of the charges for highway transport.

DAIREN SHOP BUILDS STEEL COACHES -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 28 Aug 53

Peiping, (Hsin-hua) -- The attempt of the Dairen Locomotive and Car Manufacturing Works to build hard-seat passenger coaches has proved successful. Modern scientific techniques were used in designing and building these coaches. The roofs and sides of the cars are of steel plates that are electrically welded, not riveted. Thus, the cars are rugged and durable. They are completely airconditioned and the workmanship is of very fine quality.

CHINESE COMMUNISTS START SURVEYING FOR CH'ENG-TU--K'UN-MING LINE -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 19 Aug 53

Chungking, 18 August (Hsin-hua) -- To further exploit the resources of the Southwest and to develop its transportation facilities, the work of surveying for the track bed of a railway between Ch'eng-tu and K'un-ming has been started. The rough survey of the line was finished in April 1953. Three surveying teams, including about 1,000 men, are now at work on different sections of the line.

The first section will commence at Nei-chiang, a station on Chieng-tu-Chungking railway line and proceed southward to I-pin. Thence, /after crossing the Yangtze River near this point/ it will parallel the /south/ bank of the Yangtze for some distance and then follow some smaller rivers to K'unming. Its whole length is to be 810 kilometers.

It will not only provide a connecting link between Szechwan and Yunnan provinces, but will make possible connections with portions of Kweichow and Sikang provinces. Noted places along the route are the salt wells at Tzukung, the coal mines at Hsu-nan, and regions that produce tung oil, varnish, herbs, hog bristles, mu-erh /edible fungus from trees/, mushrooms, and other native products. At K'un-ming, this railway will connect with the Yunnan-Vietnam line, and by that line with the famous tin mines at Ko-chiu.

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